



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Friends of North Creek Forest

ADDRESS:

CONTACT: (425) 318-8144; <http://www.friendsofnorthcreekforest.org>

GENERAL GOALS: To protect and improve the ecological function of North Creek Forest.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award supported ecological restoration and education, including the development of an interpretive ethnobotanical garden in North Creek Forest.

For more information, please see the attached report from North Creek Forest.

F R I E N D S



of North Creek Forest

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund - Project Report
February 2, 2016
Q4 2014 14.2

Our mission: To protect and improve the ecological function of North Creek Forest through stewardship, education and conservation in perpetuity.

The funding provided by the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund supported ecological restoration and education, including the development of an interpretive ethnobotanical garden in North Creek Forest. Each year we select a portion of the forest that has been damaged by invasive plants and restore its ecological function to its highest wildlife holding capacity. Design and fieldwork leadership is accomplished by a team of University of Washington seniors in the UW Restoration Ecology Capstone Program. We supply much of the material support, volunteer recruitment and coordination.

Education is integral to our mission, and infused into everything we do. We teach the ecological function of an upland forest, why restoration and conservation are vital to the survival of salmon and Orca in the Salish Sea, and how we can all do our part to protect and restore habitat.

Students from K through 12 learn about plant identification, plant diversity, water quality testing, how to plant a tree properly, how water moves through a forest, wildlife habitat, connections between a forest and the health of Puget Sound, and links between nature and cultural traditions of Northwest native tribes.

During the term of this grant we hosted 12 different school and youth groups serving K-12 students, and partnered with 13 different college classes. All were involved in volunteer stewardship and restoration, but some classes also collected ecological data and used their engineering skills to design irrigation systems. In all, 591 individual volunteers performed over 4300 hours of volunteer stewardship service to the forest.

With your support, we also created an online database of plants that will serve as the framework for our interpretive ethnobotanical garden. We currently have 46 plants from our restoration sites featured, representing 39 different species. Each record includes the plant's name, description, restoration uses and photos, as well as published ethnobotanical uses. This spring we will install plant signs

that will display the name of each featured plant. These signs will connect visitors, via a QR code, to the online database. We hope to work with Tulalip Tribal Staff to include the Lushootseed name for each plant.

Your funding has also provided things difficult to measure. We are strengthening our infrastructure, developing a more diverse range of volunteer opportunities, and deepening our partnership with the City of Bothell. All of this is the result of an expanding community of support of which you have been a vital part. We are deeply grateful for your continued support of our mission to protect and teach about our precious natural heritage.

I have attached a page of photos that represent a sample of the events that your funding helped support. Many more may be found under "News" on our website. If you would like further information I am happy to provide it in any form.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Sprong".

Emily Sprong
Executive Director
Friends of North Creek Forest
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FRIENDS



of North Creek Forest

Preserving Bothell's largest remaining mature forest



2015 started off with a bang with over 100 volunteers attending a January work party



Senator Patty Murray and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene toured North Creek Forest.



Volunteers planted hundreds of native plants.



We hosted 15 K-12 field trips with almost 500 student visitors.

2015 in North Creek Forest



We removed over 30 cubic yards of trash and yard waste. We partnered with 13 different UW-B and CC classes.



Teens from the Northshore YMCA visited weekly all summer to learn about the Forest and help weed and water.



Volunteers turned out in great numbers- even in December's downpours. 591 volunteers contributed over 4300 hours in 2015.

